

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 64, 65, 67-97, 99-104, and 106-123 are currently pending. Claims 1, 68-69, 72-74, 76-80, 83, 85-87, 106, 107, 110, 119, 124, and 125 have been amended. The amendments to claims 1, 68-69, 72-74, 76-80, 83, 85-87, 106, 107, 110, 119, 124, and 125 do not constitute new matter.

The Examiner has objected to claims 68, 72, 74, 79, 80, 83, 85, and 86 for various informalities.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 69, 73, 76-78, 87, 124, and 125 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. For the reasons detailed below, the rejections should be withdrawn and the claims allowed to issue. Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

**Objection to the Drawings**

Applicants note that the Office Action Summary sheet indicates that the drawings are objected to by the Examiner, although no discussion of the drawings is found in the Office Action. Applicants note that replacement sheets in response to a prior objection to the drawings were submitted by Applicants on October 21, 2005. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the drawings are in proper form, and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

**Objections to the Claims**

The Examiner has objected to claims 68, 72, 74, 79, 80, 83, 85, and 86 for various informalities. These objections are discussed in more detail below.

The Examiner has objected to claim 68 for a typographical error. Claim 68 has been amended to replace the word “envelops” with “envelopes.”

The Examiner has objected to claim 72 for missing the word “the” before the word “autoclave.” Claim 72 has been amended to insert the word “the” as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claim 74 for missing the word “a” before the word “programmable.” Claim 74 has been amended to insert the word “a” as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claims 79 and 83 for missing the word “the” before the word “solvent bottle.” Claims 79 and 83 have been amended to insert the word “the” as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claim 80 for missing the words “a” and “the.” Claim 80 has been amended to recite “a temperature control thermocouple inside the autoclave” as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claim 85 for missing the word “the” before the word “autoclave.” Claim 85 has been amended to insert the word “the” in three instances, as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claim 86 for missing the word “the” before the word “dosification tank.” Claim 86 has been amended to insert the word “the” as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claims 106, 107, 110, and 119 for being dependent on canceled claim 105. Claims 106, 107, 110, and 119 have been amended to depend from claim 87.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant asserts that the Examiner's objections have been addressed, and respectfully request that the objections be withdrawn.

### **The Claims Are Definite**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 69, 73, 76-78, 87, 124, and 125 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These rejections are discussed in more detail below.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1, asserting that it is unclear how various elements of the claimed device are interconnected. Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to more specifically identify the relationship between various elements in the claimed device. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7 and 9. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that claim 1, as amended, clearly defines the relationships between all elements and is definite.

The Examiner has rejected claim 69 for the phrase "heat exchanger," asserting that it is unclear whether the "heat exchanger" of claim 69 is the same as the "heating system" of claim 1. Applicant notes that claim 69 has been amended to depend from claim 67 and to recite "wherein the device has a heat exchanger connected to the solvent bottle and the residual solution collection tank." Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, pages 10-11. Applicant submits that these amendments distinguish the "heat exchanger" of claim 69 from the "heating system" of claim 1, because the "heat exchanger" is connected to both the solvent bottle and the residual solution collection tank, whereas the "heating system" is connected only to the residual solution collection tank. Furthermore, the specification states that the heat exchanger transfers heat between the solvent bottle and the residual solution collection tank, whereas the heating system merely increase the temperature of the residual solution

collection tank. See the specification at, for example, page 11 and original claim 4.

Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the Examiner's rejection has been addressed.

The Examiner has rejected claim 73, stating that it is unclear whether the "loading cell" of claim 73 is the same as the "loading cell" of claim 1. Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to recite "a first loading cell" and claim 73 has been amended to recite "a second loading cell." Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, pages 7 and 10. The specification indicates that the first loading cell accepts a solvent bottle, whereas the second loading cell accepts a dosification tank. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the two loading cells are distinct, and that the claims as amended are definite.

The Examiner has rejected claims 76-78, stating that the location of the valves is unclear. Applicant notes that claim 76 has been amended to recite "a series of pneumatic valves, NV1, NV2, NV3, NV4, NV5, NV6, NV7, and NV8." Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, pages 25-29. Claim 77 has been amended to recite "a set of electrovalves EV1 and EV2." Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, page 25. In addition, claim 78 has been amended to recite "a series of manual valves VM1, VM2, VM3, VM4, VM5, VM6, VM7, VM8, VM9, and VM10." Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, pages 22 and 29-30. Applicant asserts that claims 76-78 now specifically identify the locations of the valves, as defined in the specification.

The Examiner has rejected claim 87, stating that it is unclear where the distillation of the "collected remaining mixture" occurs. Applicant notes that claim 87 has been amended to recite "distilling the collected remaining mixture within the residual solution tank." Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7 and 15. Applicant asserts

that claim 87, as amended, now particularly recites where the distillation of the “collected remaining mixture” occurs.

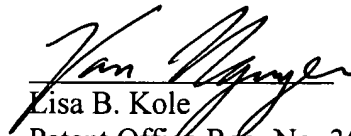
The Examiner has rejected claims 124-125, stating that the source of the vapor is unclear. Applicant notes that claims 124 and 125 have been amended to recite a “distillate” instead of a “vapor.” Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, pages 15-16. The claims, as amended, indicate that the distillation occurring in the residual solution tank produces a distillate, which is conveyed to a solvent bottle. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the source of the distillate is clearly recited, and that the claims are definite.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant asserts that the claims are definite, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

**CONCLUSION**

Entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks into the file of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Applicant believes that the inventions described and defined by claims 1, 64, 65, 67-97, 99-104, and 106-123 are patentable over the rejections of the Examiner. Withdrawal of all rejections and reconsideration of the amended claims is requested. An early allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lisa B. Kole  
Patent Office Reg. No. 35,225

Van H. Nguyen  
Patent Office Reg. No. 56,571

Attorneys for Applicant  
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112--4498  
(212) 408-2500